

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 28, Number 6

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, January 2, 1964

## Lions To Honor Dr. Pullen, State Supt. Of Schools

Dr. Thomas G. Pullen, Jr. retiring State Superintendent of Schools will be honored by the Greenbelt Lions Club at their next regularly scheduled dinner meeting, Monday, January 13, 1964 at 6:45 p.m., American Legion Home.

A nationally known educator, Dr. Pullen has served the state for 38 years as a principal, county superintendent, state supervisor of high schools, assistant state superintendent and state superintendent.

Dr. Pullen has served with many state and national organizations - The White House Conference on Education, Chairman of Commission for International Educational Reconstruction and a member of the National Commission for Unesco (two terms). He is the author of a high school reading program and numerous articles in professional magazines.

A distinguished list of guests is expected to attend: State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein; State Senator H. Winship Wheatley; former University of Maryland president Harry C. Byrd; State PTA president Joseph W. Showalter; and Lloyd L. Moore, District Governor, District 22-C, Lions. Additional acceptances from invited guests are expected before the week is out.

It is planned that citations will be presented to Dr. Pullen on behalf of Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Anthony J. Celebreeze; U. S. Commissioner of Education Francis Keppel; National Education Association Executive Secretary William G. Carr; and Governor J. Millard Tawes. Mr. Thomas S. Gwynn, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Prince Georges County, will introduce Dr. Pullen.

The public is invited at 7:15 p.m.

## Classes for New Parents

Anticipating a new arrival? Whether it is the first, second or third baby, a unique type of course to prepare husbands and wives for a more satisfying, happy and comfortable childbearing experience is being offered by Parent and Child, Inc., a non-profit organization.

The informal evening classes, taught by professional instructors, maintain a common sense approach. The emphasis is on understanding the physiology of pregnancy and birth, body mechanics, relaxation techniques and specific mild exercises, as well as discussions on problems arising before and after birth.

Registration is now open for the next seven week series beginning January 9 in the Prince Georges Plaza area. Doctor's permission is required. Call FE 3-9187 for information.

## WHAT GOES ON

Saturday, January 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Ballet Registration, Youth Center

7:30 p.m. Christmas Tree Burning, Rear of Firehouse

Monday, January 6, 8 p.m. City Council meeting

Wednesday, January 8, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Adult Roller Skating, Youth Center

Thursday, January 9, Registration for second session of Adult Ballroom

Registration for Gymnastics Class (Children, teen, adult), Youth Center

7:45 p.m. GHI Board Meeting, Hamilton Place

Friday, January 10, 8:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge, Coop Hospitality Room

## A Greenbelt Reader Reviews

The following book reviews were solicited by Margaret Paris, Greenbelt Librarian, who was enthusiastic about Dr. Stern's reviews and wanted the News Review readers to share them with the library staff.

by David P. Stern

Wartime Comedy (John F. Leeming, *It Always Rains in Rome*)

To start with, let it be said that this book has nothing to do with Rome and that the entire story takes place in a small Italian town during the WW II, at the end of the German occupation, the beginning of the Allied one and in the trying period in between. Even though the author of this comedy tries hard to incorporate all possible stereotypes into the plot — go-slow Italians, stiff Britons, rigid Germans and even a totally unnecessary American — even though the war is that kind of comic-opera war in which no one gets even badly hurt, it makes a good story, the most convincing part of which are the Italians, with whom the author sometimes manages to portray a Don-Camillo like atmosphere. All said, this is the kind of book which may very well be filmed one day as an excellent but not outstanding British comedy, with Peter Sellers playing the ex-fascist mayor.

Worlds to Explore (Charles Adams, *Black Maria*; Jules Feiffer, *Hold Me!*)

To judge by his cartoons, Charles Adams lives in a world of three-legged monsters, eggheaded squat men with wicked round eyes and longhaired witches in creaky decaying mansions. I wouldn't want to live there, but it's fun to observe. Jules Feiffer on the other hand moves in a world of neurotic young ladies, loudvoiced bigots and fallout shelters which, unfortunately, is the one in which we all live. In any case, here are two hilarious cartoon collections for one of those evenings when one feels too blue to read.

A Lesson in History (J. Christopher Herold, *Bonaparte in Egypt*)

This work is without reservation history at its best. The author has taken a small, self-contained and quite unique episode in history — Napoleon's expedition to Egypt (1798-1801) — and proceeded to give it a thorough, well documented and above all eminently readable account of it. This is not a cut-and-dried history of kings and battles, politics and treaties: it contains personal accounts, soldiers' diaries and scores of small incidents and character sketches which bring the past back to life. The character descriptions are easily the best part of the book: while not always unbiased, they are very convincing and vivid. Napoleon emerges from them as a shrewd operator who preferred lies to truth whenever it served his purpose and who rose to the top by doing this sort of thing better than anyone else. In short, a fascinating account of a superfluous war (aren't they all) the only result of which was the death of some 30,000 Frenchmen in a far-away country, and the rise of Napoleon to power.

ORDER OF THE SNOWFLAKE

To the Editor:

As the newspaper delivery boy for Springhill Lake I wish to thank the residents for their generous holiday gifts.

Of particular note was a very attractive artistically hand-printed "token of appreciation" certificate, conferring on me the high honor of membership in The Order of the Snowflake, with a double-red-ribbed seal, making it official, from Ann and John Hand. The certificate is bordered with the quotation: "Neither Rain, Nor Sleet, Nor Snow, Nor Dark of Night Can Stay The Deliverer Of The Greenbelt News Review From His appointed Rounds."

Norman Weston

## AGENDA REGULAR MEETING COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND

JANUARY 6, 1964

### I ORGANIZATION

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Minutes of Regular meeting, December 16, 1963.

### II COMMUNICATIONS

4. Petitions and Requests.
5. Additions to agenda by Councilmen and Manager.
6. Written Communications.
7. Manager's Progress Report.
8. Committee Reports.

### III OLD BUSINESS

9. Letter from Greenbelt Civic Association re: Zoning Procedures.

10. Traffic Lights - Beltway Plaza, Junior High and Street Lights - Southway and Crescent.

11. Condemnation of City Warehouse Property.

### IV NEW BUSINESS

12. ORDINANCE - Amending Ordinance No. 405, Regulating Parking in the Service Courts in Greenbelt, Md.

13. ORDINANCE - To Repeal Various Ordinances Providing for City Bus Service.

14. RESOLUTION - Transfer of Funds.

15. Civil Defense.

16. Approval of Bills - Special Public Building Construction Fund.

## Treatment for Colds

What can you do for the common cold?

Most folks know you can't cure it. And yet we still waste a lot of time and money on pills and nostrums and treatments — all in the vain hope that maybe this time something will help.

Actually, grandma's home therapy is still good. If you get a cold, stay home in bed. Keep warm. Gargle to ease a sore throat. Take aspirin for the discomfort. None of this will cure the cold, but it will make you feel somewhat more comfortable while your body's natural defense mechanisms are building up enough steam to overcome the cold virus.

There are medications now available — in the area of antihistamines — that sometimes can make the symptoms of a cold much less severe and make it possible for us to keep going. These have their limitations and their problems. The antihistamines can cause drowsiness, which could be highly dangerous to the driver of an auto. If you get a cold, ask your doctor about the new medications that reduce the runny nose and sneezing and coughing.

As youngsters we heard the old folks say: Treat a cold and you can cure it in two weeks; let it alone and it will go away in a fortnight. The time element isn't that exact, but the theory is the same.

Much research is being done on cause and possible cure for colds. Perhaps the answers will be found some day. But as of now we can't cure colds and anyone who tells you he can, deserves at best considerable suspicion.

## News Review Picks 10 Best Stories of 1963

What were Greenbelt's ten big stories of 1963? Seeking an answer to this question, the *Greenbelt News Review* polled its editorial board. Since, naturally enough, there was less than complete agreement on the relative importance of each event, the following choices are not necessarily listed in the order of their significance.

1. Record turnouts for the city election and subsequent run-off result in the defeat of four incumbents, with the high vote going to Edgar L. Smith, who was named mayor by the new council consisting of David Champion (incumbent), William Hoff, Lewis Bernstein, and Clifford Simonson.

2. Voters approved \$150,000 bond issue for renovation of swimming pool in September referendum.

3. City council adopts \$373,930 budget which produced lowest tax rate in city's history — \$1.31 per \$100 assessed valuation.

4. The May GHI board elections see for the first time two opposing slates engaged in a vigorous campaign which attracts a record 911 votes and results in a 2-1 triumph for the ticket composed of Frank Lastner, Harry Zubkoff, Hans Jorgensen, Charles Schwan, and John O'Reilly.

5. Growth of Greenbelt given impetus by the moving in of first tenants in Springhill Lake Apartments and by the development of residential subdivisions (Lakecrest and Boxwood Village) by Charles Bresler.

6. S. Klein's on-the-square comes to Greenbelt with the largest department store in the area (320,000 square feet).

7. Greenbelt gets express bus service direct to downtown Washington during rush hours, starting November 25.

8. Construction completed of long-awaited \$114,000 municipal building for housing of city offices. Also completed is paving of connecting East-West parking lot.

9. Both old and new councils recommend denial of petition by Stidham Tire Company for industrial or commercial zoning of tract of land opposite Greenbelt Junior High School.

10. Controversy over charging the *News Review* for unused basement space in GDC apartments ends in membership approval of existing arrangements whereby the paper reimburses GDC for out-of-pocket expenses.

## Tree Burning This Saturday

The annual Christmas tree burning will take place on Saturday, January 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the open area behind the Fire house.

Children bringing trees to the following pick-up points: North End Elementary School, Mowatt Methodist Church and Springhill Lake Swimming Pool Parking Lot from 2 to 5 p.m. and rear of fire house, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., will receive free tickets to a movie to be shown at the fire house on the following Saturday, January 11 at 5 p.m. with a repeat performance the same evening at 7 p.m.

Hot chocolate for the children and coffee for adults will be served after the burning by the Ladies Auxiliary. The public is invited to roam around the fire house after the tree-burning ceremony.

## Nursery School Vacancy

The Greenbelt Nursery School has started an afternoon session, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. daily. Applications are being accepted for the one remaining vacancy. For further information call Mrs. Gough at GR 4-1529, or Mrs. Wernir at GR 4-6651.

## Springhill Notes

by Marion Weston 474-1076

The holiday Open House sponsored by management last Sunday evening was most pleasant. There was a tasty variety of refreshments and the egg nog prepared by Mrs. Burack was delicious. It is hoped that future socials will be better attended by increasing numbers of residents.

On Sunday, January 5 there will be the celebration marking the twelfth day of Christmas with a huge bonfire at which time the discarded Christmas trees will be burned. A notice of details on this subject will be distributed to the residents by management.

The first meeting of the year of the Springhill Lake Citizens Association will be held on Wednesday evening, January 8 at 8 p.m. in the community house. Mr. Marshall Kaplan, the president of the S.L.C.A. looks forward to a large attendance at the meeting, which will be followed by a social hour at which small refreshments will be served.

## Ballet Class Starting

Ballet registration will take place on Saturday, January 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 at the Youth Center. (No lessons will be given on Saturday). Susan Ellerin will be the dance instructor for the second year.

## APPEAL FOR THE RETARDED

### To the Editor

A story was told in the press recently of a Massachusetts school bus of retarded children which was boarded by a tall man as it waited for a stop light. He greeted each child. Then bidding them all to "be good children", he returned to his own car. The man was our late President, John F. Kennedy.

Since the tragic death of the President, the Prince George's County Association for Retarded Children has been asked by many persons and organizations, knowing of his great personal interest in this problem, if a way exists to make a memorial gift. Provision does exist for gifts in memory of President Kennedy through the Research Fund of the National Association for Retarded Children of which Prince Georges County Association for Retarded Children is a member.

The Research Fund is a cause in which President Kennedy believed. Its grants provide scientists the freedom, time and facilities to pursue new leads and to originate and carry through significant investigations. Some scholarships are also designed to bring talented young scientists into the field of research into mental retardation.

With extraordinary vision, President Kennedy saw the many things which need to be done to erase this problem which affects millions of Americans today. He won for the mentally retarded and their families legislation to provide giant forward steps for positive action in the near future.

Speaking in October to the Annual Convention of the National Association for Retarded Children, he said, "I think we have an obligation as a country . . . especially a country as rich as ours . . . to make a major effort to see if we can block this, stop it and cure it." He was talking about the tragic human waste caused by mental retardation.

To "block this, stop it and cure it" — these are his words describing the action he thought his countrymen should take. The NARC Research Fund is devoted to just such action.

We respectfully suggest to those of the public who wish to contribute to a cause in memory of President Kennedy that they consider the NARC Research Fund. Gifts may be sent to the Fund at 386 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10016. Robert L. Parrish, Prince George's County Association for Retarded Children

## GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Treas., Bess Halperin and Mary Smith

MAILS SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$2.00 per year: (\$4.00 out of Greenbelt). Advertising and news articles may be submitted by mail (Box 68, Greenbelt). Deposited in our box at the Twin Pines Savings and Loan Office or delivered to the editorial offices in the basement of 15 Parkway (GR 4-4131), open after 8:30 p.m., Tuesday. News deadline 9:30 p.m., Tuesday.

Volume 28, Number 6

Thursday, January 2, 1964

## A Year-End Inventory

Now that we are launched into a bright new year it is a good time to take a year-end inventory and to look ahead into 1964. It would be a fair statement to say that 1963 was not a quiet year in our community. The tides of controversy swept through the town in seeming constant succession. At the same time, the controversies that raged were conducted in the traditional Greenbelt grand style. Issues were debated heatedly, with letters to the *New Review* flying thick and furiously, and then the arguments were resolved by the ballot box or by other reasonable and democratic means. The battle then abated as the participants relaxed and waited for the next issue, which is bound to come along any minute.

The last quarter of 1963 saw the formation of a number of citizens' groups. Again we saw working the old Greenbelt adage — put two Greenbelters together and you can get an argument started, put three together and you have a new organization. Two new groups — The Greenbelt Citizens for Fair Housing and the Greenbelt Civic Association — were born in controversy, and the indications are that they will keep things lively in 1964.

Other new groups, such as the Greenbelt Library Association, which apparently will give county library officials no peace until a new library is constructed here, and the Springhill Lake Citizens Association, representing the public-spirited element in that fast-growing and beautiful new apartment development, are also certain to make news in 1964.

When you consider not only the above organizations but also the number of committees, boards and panels formed to advise the city council and GHI, the safest prediction for 1964 is that any resident, bored with his wife's chatter (or husband's silence) can find a meeting to attend where his opinion will be heard and given weight.

Did all this ferment in 1963 prove anything? We think it did. It demonstrated that Greenbelt's institutions are strong and can endure the stretching and pulling of factional feuds without permanent harm. It reinforced the foundation of our community as an almost unique place where the old-fashioned type of "town hall meeting" atmosphere is always available for people to get things off their chest and speak their mind on almost any subject.

On this basis we can look forward to 1964 with confidence that we will see another exciting stimulating year in our history.

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## Behind Locked Doors

by Rita Fisher

The annual Christmas party for the patients of Ward CT-6 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital was held on Wednesday, December 18 and even jolly old Santa Claus was on hand to greet the ladies.

The party was held by a group of women, sponsored by the Greenbelt Methodist Church, who have now completed six years of regular monthly visits to the same ward.

I was honored to be asked to play the part of old St. Nick again this year. We arranged it so that I could arrive right behind the group as an added surprise when we walked in. This was accomplished by my dressing at home up to the neckline and donning the rest of the costume in the lobby of the building at the hospital. The individually wrapped gifts for the women were put into a pillow case which I carried over my shoulder.

The Greenbelt group entered first and then Santa walked in with a deep, "Ho ho ho and a Merry Christmas". Most of the patients were aware of my true identity but they played along with me. I went around shaking hands and talking to them first. "Well, well, well, how are you?" I said, "and have you been a good girl?" I would add. The knowing smiles made me feel good. I guess I looked kind of silly to them but they were enjoying the game of pretend; as long as I could see the joy and amusement it brought them, I was willing to keep up the masquerade.

I made the second trip around the room handing out the gifts. This time, certain women asked questions to me, Rita Fisher, rather than to Santa Claus. Did I bring the watch I promised? Where were my children? How were my children? Did I bring any cigarettes? I winked and told them that I was Santa Claus and then I confidentially answered their questions.

Three of my children were in school, I told them, but my four year old Lori was with me. She obligingly left me alone while I played Santa. She had been told that mommy was only pretending to be Santa for the party and she was enjoying the "secret" knowledge she had.

I promised the girl who wanted the watch that I'd be back to see her later with a watch. I also promised two girls that I would send up cigarettes from the machine in the lobby when we left. I had no time to get them on the way in.

We had hoped that someone would donate a sewing machine which we could present to the ward for Christmas. Since we had not received one, we presented them with a record player. It had been given by Miss Clara Brandt, who is now the chairman of the Greenbelt group, who donated her own record player to give as a gift rather than go without something special.

Santa didn't stay at the party

### Stitt - William

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence C. Stitt announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Alice, to James H. Williams, son of Mrs. Patrick H. Williams, 49-D Ridge.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Indiana State College and is presently teaching home economics in Bethel Park.

James Williams, former Chief of Police in Greenbelt, is with the office of the Inspector General, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

A spring wedding is planned.

### COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rev. Kenneth Wyatt, Minister

SUNDAY: Family Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion at 10:45. Rev. Wyatt preaching.

(Affiliated with United Church of Christ)

much longer. He bade them all a farewell stating that he had to move on. Actually Santa only got as far as one of the large closets where he disappeared. When the closet door reopened, there I stood as myself, a little late for the party.

We sang Christmas carols and other songs which they selected. We encouraged them to get up and perform before the group.

And as usual, our friend Ramona, who has progressed through the years from a cold unfriendly woman who used to sit on the floor and talk to herself, and who now

talks to us and who we can talk to, and who sits very ladylike on a chair, did lead us all in "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" For this one song each month, she rises from wherever she's sitting in the room, comes over to the piano and very dramatically, with gestures, recites the verses as we sing along.

For me the big thrill of the day was when Girlie finally said something I could actually understand. Girlie acts as if she's deaf. But there have been times in the past where she has mumbled something to me though I have never before actually been able to understand anything. Her voice was always so soft and quiet. But this time, I believe she wanted to be sure that I knew what she said so she put her mouth close to my ear and said "Watch." She was asking me

for a watch because she knew that I had brought one for another patient. I told her I had no more but that I'd try to get some more. She nodded her head and smiled.

Other patients also have been asking for watches. The watches could be in need of repair since there is a shop at the hospital where they could be repaired. If anyone has a watch to donate, please contact Miss Brandt at GR 4-7670. And of course, any kind of a sewing machine, even a treadle-type, would make a nice gift.

For me, it's the end of my visits for a while. I will be working for the Government beginning January 8 and will be unable to take time off. When I am eligible for the few hours leave necessary once a month, I hope to again spend my afternoons, the third Wednesday of each month joining the ladies from Greenbelt as they visit those who must spend their lives living behind locked doors.



## Recreation Program

Now that things are back to normal — school, bills, colds — the Recreation schedule is back to normal. We plan to continue our weekly program.

Starting Wednesday, January 8th, there will be an Adult Roller Skating Program at the Youth Center. The fee for skating is 10¢ if you bring your own skates and 25¢ if you plan to use the clamp on rental skates. Skating time will be from 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 9th will be registration for the second session of Adult Ballroom Dance Class. Classes will begin January 16th. There will be a \$10.00 registration fee.

Also on January 9th, we will hold registration for the Gymnastics Classes. These classes will include basic body control, tumbling, balancing and the use of the trampoline. Children's classes will be held on Saturday mornings. There will also be a teenagers' class on Saturday mornings. Registration fee for these classes will be \$10.00. An Adult Class is scheduled to be held on Tuesday evenings. Registration fee is \$12.00.

Registration for the Ballet Class is now being held. Susan Ellerin, instructor. Fee is \$10.00. If you plan to enroll, please hurry as these classes close rapidly.

For further information on any recreation program, call the Recreation Department, 474-6878.

## MOWATT MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

Invites you to

CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 a.m.

Nursery Provided at Service Lyle E. Harper, pastor

GR. 4-7293

9:45 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. Training Union  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 7:30 p.m. Evening Worship

8:00 p.m. Wednesday Midweek Service

## GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Crescent & Greenhill S. Jasper Morris, Jr., Pastor GR 4-4040

## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

2 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Maryland, GR. 4-4477

Dward H. Birner, Pastor, GR. 4-9200

WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 a.m.

Kindergarten registrations now being accepted

WEEKDAY KINDERGARTEN



TWIN PINES MEMBERS ARE NOW RECEIVING  
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Classified rates are five cents per word, fifty cents minimum. Ads should be submitted in writing, accompanied by cash payment, to the News Review Office at 15 Parkway not later than 10 p.m. of the Tuesday preceding publication. If accompanied by cash payment, ads may be deposited in the News Review box at the Twin Pines Savings and Loan Association.

**CALDWELL'S WASHER SERVICE**  
All makes expertly repaired. Authorized whirlpool dealer. GR 4-5515.

**TYPEWRITER REPAIR**: Overhaul and cleaning. Portable, standard and electric typewriters. Call Mr. K. Kincius GR. 4-6018. Any time.

**TV TROUBLE**: Service by Tony Pisano. GR. 4-7841.

**PAINTING** - Interior and exterior. Louis D. Neumann, 8-C Research. GR. 4-6357 after 6 p.m.

**T.V. SERVICE**: GR. 4-5366 - Mike Talbot. Also AM, FM, Auto, HI-FI.

**WINES, BEER**, Whiskey, Soda. Imported and American. Porter's 8200 Balto Blvd., College Park 474-3273.

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**WILL BABY-SIT EVENINGS** - Reliable, call GR 4-6787.

**WILL PET-SIT WHILE ON VACATION** - GR 4-6787.

**TELEVISION SERVICE** - all makes & models - TV sales new and used - RCA Franchise TV antennas installed. HANYOK BROS. GR 4-6464, GR 4-6069.

**HAVE A CARPOOL** - NEED DRIVERS - 14th & D Sts., N.W. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 474-6060.

**ROTATOR DRIVER WANTED** for existing carpool - vicinity 12th and Ind. Ave. S.W. - hours 9-5:30. Call 474-6358 or 474-4236 evenings.

**GREENBELT LANDSCAPE SERVICE** - Call Barton, 474-5148.

**PERSONAL** - Would the gentleman who responded to Mrs. Norris' ad please call her at 474-7407.

**HELP WANTED** - Attendant needed, wash 'n dry clean, 3 nights, 6-11 p.m. Call 779-9702 before 5 p.m. or 474-6545.

**FOR SALE** - 1953 Ford 2-door sedan, dark blue, snow tires, good condition. \$125. 474-6149 evenings and weekends.

**MOTHER OF 2** desires to care for one or two more children in her home. 474-2598.

**FOR SALE** - 1956 Buick sedan, has everything, good condition - offers. 474-4261.

**Our Neighbors**

by Elaine Skodnik - 474-6060

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar M. Weber, 18-P Ridge, were delighted to have their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. James Carner, of Gainesville, Florida with them during the holidays. Also visiting was the Carner's friend, Jalil Pourad.

AC/1 Robert Stewart of Quonset Point, Rhode Island visited his mother, Mrs. Ina Stewart, 8-G Southway. Stewart's brother, Herbert and sister, Mrs. Edgar Weber, shared in the reunion.

Ann Pogorelskin danced in the production of "Patterns of America" held in High Point's Little Theatre.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Buskirk, 10-J Parkway, proudly announce the birth of a daughter on Christmas day.

It's a girl for Mr. and Mrs. James Hill, 38-H Ridge. Mary Alice made her debut the day after Christmas, December 26, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz. She joins Jimmy, Billy, and Debby.

Hear ye! Hear ye! All Greenbelters having Leap Year birthdays call Elizabeth Wuermser at once - 474-6012. Those too young to talk have mommy or daddy do the contact work.

**Television Service**

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Evelyn Simonson's 4-H Clover-buds fashioned beautiful Christmas Castles for Junior Village. Their project was on display at Twin Pines last week. The girls also plodded through the snow Christmas caroling.

Councilman Clifford Simonson was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

It's a boy for Mr. and Mrs. John M. Foster, 7-A Parkway. John Michael Jr., was born December 23 weighing 6 lbs. 15 oz. He has a sister, Cindy. John's proud grandparents include Mrs. Crosman, 7-B Parkway and Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Smith, 131 Northway.

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## Greenbelters Help Researcher Locate Two Neglected Local Burying Grounds

The following material of historical interest to Greenbelters was written by James C. Wilfong, Jr., a member of the Prince Georges County Historical Society, and appeared in the Laurel News Leader, starting with the issue of October 3, 1963. We wish to thank the author and the News Leader for permission to reprint the material.

by James C. Wilfong, Jr.

Somewhere in this vast land there are some persons named Hamilton who own a plot of Maryland land of which they are perhaps unaware. Their ownership might, in fact, attach no interest whatever, since the extent of their property must be small, vague and ill-defined, at best. Their patrimony is an old burying ground and if their vested interests go back to the mid-eighteenth century they have also been largely ignored in all or most of this one.

When the U. S. Government's Resettlement Administration established the town of Greenbelt at a cost of \$9,000,000 in 1935, the picturesque little stream-fed area stopped just short of today's Baltimore-Washington Expressway on its eastern perimeter. One fragment of ground could not be acquired under Maryland law; it could not be acquired at any rate, without long and costly litigation which, for the extent involved and the considerable cost of relocation of a dozen graves, made it unwise to pursue the matter. Accordingly, a tiny segment of ground at the eastern edge of Greenbelt is still today the Hamilton family cemetery.

Until Mrs. Gerry Backstrom, 60-D Crescent, a Greenbelt resident employed in the public relations office of the National Arboretum, undertook a personal search for the plot, its existence had been all but lost except to playing children and a few garden enthusiasts of the area. Mrs. Backstrom had provided the salient inscriptions from the five stones remaining, taking down some names and dates in shorthand under more difficult conditions than ever beset a conference secretary. The following are from her notes:

Andrew Hamilton  
Died Sept. 21, 1823  
In His 70th Year  
Jane, Wife of Andrew Hamilton  
Died Feb. 28, 1824  
Aged 72 Years  
Col. Samuel Hamilton, son of  
Andrew and Jane  
Died Jan. 25, 1857  
Aged 74  
Elizabeth, Wife of Col. Samuel  
Hamilton  
Died May 1, 1834  
Aged 47  
Elizabeth, 2d Wife of Col. Samuel  
Hamilton  
Aged 52  
Died June 15, 1847  
Children's Graves

Mrs. Backstrom had said she had seen the area, now engulfed in briars and underbrush, some years earlier and had then been struck with some dates on some smaller stones denoting children. Some tragedy or epidemic had taken two or three on the same date, as she recalled, but the inscriptions had not given the reason. Now, in May, 1963, these were gone carried off by vandals. The others were in rather pitiable condition; of the five remaining, only one still stood, that of Elizabeth, the second wife of the Colonel. The other four had toppled over, the inscription broken up, and one of these had broken into two pieces. All were nearly hidden by the onslaught of two decades, growth of honeysuckle, poison ivy and assorted plant life. The whole is shaded by trees, here for a century or more.

It was not difficult to locate the Hamilton plot, thanks to Mrs. Backstrom's directions, although one can pass within a dozen feet of the grove and not know of the stones within. All about are cleared areas in use as unusually fertile gardens by Greenbelt residents and a lone gnarled apple tree hints of the days when much of this was Hamilton land. Somewhere, buried perhaps in the archives of the Resettlement Administration, the details must lie, the whole story of the acquisition of the Greenbelt lands, whether taken in part from present day Hamiltons or whether

these had long before left their hands. One wonders wistfully of the relationship, if any, between Andrew, born in 1752, and the better known - although not much - Eastern Shoreman of the same name who not only defended John Peter Zenger but also designed Philadelphia's Independence Hall. Old gravestones have much to tell, but not always as much as one might wish.

### Indian Spring

Some of the popular chronicles contain references to Indian Spring in the heart of Prince George's County. This is not to be confused with Indian Spring Meeting, an early settlement of Quakers, among the first on the Western Shore. The latter is believed to have been in Anne Arundel at a point east of Laurel within what would today be the confines of Fort Meade. A recent publication sponsored by the Maryland Historical Society relating to the beginning of the Society of Friends in Maryland more or less pinpoints this early settlement as having been between Bowie and Odenton, nearer the latter.

The other Indian Spring had puzzled us for a long time and we turned again to some knowledgeable people for assistance. We checked once more with Mrs. Gerry Backstrom in the Public Relations Office of the National Arboretum. Mrs. Backstrom is not a Marylander, but a midwesterner on the scene for twenty years or more and she had, one knew, combed the Greenbelt area in detail in the course of adopting it as home. Our inquiry could not have been better directed, although the road builders had had something to say about familiar landmarks before we got around to pursuing our search.

On the west side of the Greenbelt Lake a trail leads south and west through fairly thick woods. We followed its path, not long ago and met with reasonable success, although it involved some discouraging caution along the way. A friendly gentleman headed east as we went west confirmed our instructions, but advised the Spring was surrounded by some treacherous soft ground; one could he said, very easily sink in, up to the knees, although the footing was not really dangerous. We pondered this apparent inconsistency for a moment. As if to prove his point his glance fell to his own feet. He had done a fair job of testing the sub-strata of Indian Spring; he himself was covered with red mud more than half-way to his knees and his hands were also thick with it. We marveled at his detached urbanity and would have gone on, except for his estimate that it would require about an hour for the round-trip walk and we had some prior family commitments at a glossy new discount department store a mile away. We thanked him and drove to the end of the existing Kenilworth Avenue paving. The belt highway builders had simplified our task for us, although the unknown muddy informant in the woods probably did not look on their activities too kindly.

### Unmarked Shaft

A quarter mile east of Kenilworth Avenue on a raised plateau in deep woods above where a turning access road will someday connect the present with the proposed, there is a wirefenced enclosure roughly 100 feet in each direction. No tombs or headstones are in evidence, although approximately in the center is a low concrete shaft with slanting face, clearly designed to accept a metal marker. Both holes were here, but there was no marker. The waist-high fence appeared fairly new - no rust was in evidence. The swinging gates opened and closed easily and we left matters as we found them. Some fifty yards farther east, down a deeply shaded path, we found the Indian Spring, a walled embankment some

20 feet long and about three feet high. Water was emerging from three apertures left by some stonemason, apparently many years ago. We walked around the area gingerly in the light of the warning of our muddy friend. Spongy, but we were more fortunate than he had been.

We thought about the concrete shaft on the hilltop up the slope. Had someone's good intentions been side-tracked before a plaque had ever been prepared? If not, what had been its purpose - its text - and what had happened to it? Vandals, or an overly skeptical and cautious owner during the road building activity? Mysteries are fascinating things; we enjoy them as much as the next one, but they can be annoying when in however small a way you happen to be a party to them. We thought we'd best check back with Mrs. Backstrom.

Mrs. Backstrom said yes, there had, indeed, been a marker atop the shaft we had found in the woods. She didn't have a copy of its text, but it had noted the fenced enclosure as an early Walker family cemetery, associated with Toaping Castle, a half mile to the south. Toaping Castle, home of generations of Walkers, is on Greenbelt Rd. Route 193, from Route 1 to Glen Dale. Vandalism had played its part, but with some curious overtones. When the theft of the plaque had been discovered it was duly reported to the Police authorities, but with small hope of ultimate recovery.

### Marker Found

Almost to prove that truth can be stranger than fiction, some months later a member of the Prince George's County Police Department had occasion to require a certain hard-to-locate part for his car. Not optimistic, he tried various automobile "graveyards" with no success locally. One more attempt in nearby Virginia had better results: he found the spare part he sought plus something else, thanks partly to coincidence but also to that uncanny memory for minutiae Police officers develop in the course of their work. In a pile of rubbish and scrap metal he saw the corner of a metal marker as might be seen in historic cemeteries across the land. This was indeed, the Walker plaque, carried on his County's "wanted list". It was soon in the protective custody of Prince George's officials.

This was interesting in the extreme - enough so to warrant fur-

ther questioning. Mrs. James Hamilton of Mitchellville had been Miss Walker of Toaping Castle, and Pleasant Prospect; surely one raised in such environments would be knowledgeable and sympathetic to our search. As a Hamilton by marriage hers was a more reasonable quest than our own. We soon learned by telephone that she had all those qualities we had heard of her and more important, at the moment, she also had knowledge of the missing plaque from the Walker family cemetery.

This was reported to Mrs. Backstrom, who by now also had some information of interest. She had, it seemed, sent copies of the September 26 and October 3, 1963, News Leader dealing with Greenbelt's Hamilton family cemetery to the City Manager there and his reply had been prompt and gratifying. She read its contents by telephone and mailed us a copy:

### Giese Replies

"Dear Mrs. Backstrom:

"Thank you for the article you sent me concerning the Hamiltons. I found it very interesting and shall look forward to receiving the second part.

"I presume you are aware that we also have two other family burying grounds within the city limits of Greenbelt - the Walker-Lester family at a little plot near Indian Springs and the Turner family at the city cemetery just off Edmonston Road. If you would be interested in more information on these, perhaps I or Mr. Albert S. Attick, our Superintendent of Public Works, could help you.

"Mr. Clay Harman, the young son of our postmaster, appeared before City Council recently to request that something be done to fix up the Hamilton grave plot. The Council referred the matter to me, and to date I have done

nothing about it. The problem is that this family plot is under private ownership and I doubt very much whether the owner would be interested at this time in spending any funds for cleaning this area up. Perhaps you might have some ideas on the subject or know of some organization which might be interested in improving the appearance of this area. Sincerely,

JAMES K. GIESE  
CITY MANAGER"

We also learned that vast local lore and a desire to help others, go hand-in-hand with official life in Greenbelt. It was suggested that Mr. Albert S. Attick - "Buddy" throughout the Greenbelt area - who was Director of Public Works there, would be an excellent source of further information.

We were on target, again. The Turner plot had been enlarged, to about three acres since its dedication to the town and was reasonably well kept, since it was available for current interments for "residents or former residents of Greenbelt." Its older stones approximated those of the Hamiltons, which was to say the early 19th century, for the most part, with here and there a birth date in the 1700's. These were boyhood scenes to Mr. Attick and he seemed to appreciate interest in them from an outsider. He obviously knew his subject well: the stones here, he said, were marble, like those of the Hamilton's. None were now in evidence at the Walker-Lester site, but he could remember them as a boy - the very old, flat, slab type, indicating great age. Unfortunately, they were of the softer sandstone, or ironstone and even if found deep in the humus here he was much afraid they'd be illegible.

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